

January 15, 1991

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, MD 20555

Dear Mr. Carr:

It is my understanding that a petition for rulemaking and request for emergency action was recently filed before the Commission on the behalf of the Nuclear Control Institute and the Committee to Bridge the Gap. I am writing to express my support for the petition and request for action and I urge the Commission to take prompt steps to address the very serious concerns it raises.

I believe that the rule changes sought under the aforementioned petition are vitally important to reduce potentially grave risks to the public health and safety and the common defense and security. As you know, because of events in the Middle East, the United States now faces a greatly increased risk of terrorism by individuals or groups directed by or sympathetic to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. It is only prudent, therefore, to upgrade the design basis threat (which defines nuclear power plant security requirements) in order to anticipate the possibility of attacks on nuclear facilities by truck bombs or more sophisticated, larger, and better armed groups.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns and I request that you inform me of what specific actions the Commission takes relating to this matter. I further request that you inform me of what actions, if any, the Commission plans to take to require licensees to undertake security upgrades and how the Commission intends to measure the effectiveness of whatever plans licensees develop to protect against possible terrorist actions.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

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